

Inaugural program launched!

Opening Gala, Closing Night & Federation Square curtain-raiser announced

Tickets now on sale for the whole program

The Czech and Slovak Film Festival of Australia (CaSFFA) launched its inaugural program on Saturday, May 18 at Gallery Domov in North Melbourne. Simultaneously, the festival opened the exhibition "Jiří Trnka - Serving Imagination", celebrating the lifework of legendary Czech animator and illustrator, Jiří Trnka, five of whose greatest puppet animations are screening at the 1st CaSFFA.

A crowd of 120 filled the gallery as the festival's Artistic Director, Cerise Howard led the speeches, followed by Hani Stolina, Head of the Consular Mission of the Czech Republic in Sydney; Vojtech Markuš, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic in Melbourne, and Jo Molloy, of exhibition partners The Boite.

Opening Gala at the RMIT Capitol Theatre: Thursday, June 6

While the festival could almost already be said to be underway, with the opening of the exhibition and curtain-raising events coming up this weekend, the official CaSFFA Opening Gala celebration will take place on Thursday, June 6 at the spectacular RMIT Capitol Theatre.

Screening that night: *In the Shadow (Ve stínu)*, the brilliant new film from director David Ondříček (son of the famous cinematographer, Miroslav Ondříček). Starring Ivan Trojan and the renowned German actor, Sebastian Koch (*The Lives of Others*), and not unlike a totalitarian *film noir*, this gripping Czech-Slovak-Polish co-production scooped the Czech Lions earlier this year, winning nine in total, including Best Film.

At the Opening Gala, furthermore, the Budvar, Becherovka and Fox Creek wines will be flowing freely, courtesy of the festival's sponsors.

Closing Night film

The festival will close on Sunday, June 9 with *Flower Buds (Poupata)*, a multiple award-winner at the 2012 Czech Lions from director Zdeněk Jiráský. Concerning itself with the Yuletide breakdown of a family living in a snow-drenched small Bohemian town, *Flower Buds* is full of the winningly woebegone humour of cult British TV series *Shameless*.

Moreover, at the Closing Night party, the first Green Fairy Absinth cocktail will come courtesy of the festival's sponsors.

CaSFFA curtain-raisers – the weekend of May 25 and 26

This coming weekend will see two special CaSFFA warm-up events. On Saturday, May 25, at 12.30pm, CaSFFA will screen three brilliant films by Jiří Trnka at ACMI Cinemas, co-presented by program partner, The Melbourne Cinémathèque: *The Emperor's Nightingale* (*Císařův slavík*, 1948), *Cybernetic Grandma* (*Kybernetická babička*, 1962) and *The Archangel Gabriel and Mrs. Goose* (*Archanděl Gabriel a paní Husa*, 1964). All three will screen on 35mm prints courtesy of Národní filmový archiv in Prague.

On Sunday, May 26, CaSFFA will have their way with the **Big Screen at Federation Square** from 2-5.30pm, looping a fabulous, family-friendly salmagundi of brand new Czech and Slovak student films from some of the most prestigious film schools in the region, along with an assortment of the greatest Slovak animations produced from the '60s through to the '80s, the odd trailer and no doubt a few surprises...

Full program now on the streets and online

The full program is now both in wide distribution around Melbourne and on the CaSFFA website. Tickets can be purchased online: www.casffa.com.au

For more information visit www.casffa.com.au

Find CaSFFA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), or subscribe to CaSFFA's [e-newsletter](#).

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

To request screeners or other materials, or an interview with Artistic Director, Cerise Howard, please contact:

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